



Congressman Bud Cramer

March 2007 E-Newsletter

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The month of March is an exciting and busy time for us in Washington. The beginning of Spring brings the first of many family and school visits to the Capitol and numerous hearings and votes on issues important to us in North Alabama. It also marks the beginning of the appropriations process for the upcoming fiscal year. For the most up-to-date information on the appropriations process and other important issues, as well as activities in Washington and Alabama, please visit my award winning website, <http://www.cramer.house.gov>.

Bud Cramer

News From Washington

This month Representative Cramer was among the first Members of Congress to question top Army officials on the deplorable conditions of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. During a hearing of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense, Cramer called upon General Peter Schoomaker, Army Chief of Staff; and Lieutenant General Kevin C. Kiley, M.D., former Army Surgeon General, to immediately improve the deplorable conditions at Walter Reed and other medical facilities across the country. *After the hearing, Cramer said, "Regardless of where our injured soldiers are recovering, they deserves the best care and quality of facilities available."* [[more](#)]

In response to the discovery of the deteriorating conditions of Walter Reed, the House unanimously approved legislation to improve medical care for American service members returning from war. The legislation, the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, reforms the servicemembers' medical system by requiring additional training of case managers and limiting the number of wounded soldiers each manager oversees. The bill also establishes a toll-free hotline for servicemembers to call to report problems at medical facilities. [[more](#)]

Cramer Named Chairman of House Intelligence Subcommittee



Representative Cramer was named Chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations provides primary oversight and conducts inquiries and investigations of the Intelligence Community. Representative Cramer served as the Ranking Democrat of this Subcommittee in the 109th Congress.

"My goal in leading this panel will be to make certain the Intelligence Community collects information effectively and efficiently in order to protect our country," said Cramer. [[more](#)]

For More Information on These and Other News Items Please Visit:
<http://cramer.house.gov>



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More News From Washington

Also this month, Representative Cramer voted for legislation to establish counseling assistance for veterans at-risk for suicide, and to require a suicide prevention counselor at each VA medical facility. *Cramer said, "During combat, our veterans are exposed to unique situations that could lead to depression and, in rare cases, suicide. This bill encourages the VA to develop a program that gives veterans who are at risk of suicide an opportunity to share their problems with a trained professional who understands the stress veterans experience upon returning from war."* [\[more\]](#)

Representative Cramer and Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander co-chaired the first meeting of the Congressional Tennessee Valley Authority Caucus for the 110th Congress. At this month's meeting, Representative Cramer asked TVA Chairman Bill Sansom and Chief Executive Officer Tom Kilgore to discuss with congressional members TVA's strategic plan and current matters affecting the TVA region. The members also discussed TVA's economic development responsibilities and land policy. [\[more\]](#)

During a hearing of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Representative Cramer questioned Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters, on the proposed funding levels for the Essential Air Service (EAS) program. The Essential Air Service program supports air carriers that maintain routes in smaller communities, such as the Shoals. Representative Cramer is a strong advocate of the EAS program and is committed to protecting EAS funding in Congress. [\[more\]](#)

What is your Experience with the VA?

The President's Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes was formed this month to determine new methods to improve the way combat veterans seek services and benefits from the VA and other federal agencies. Representative Cramer is encouraging veterans from North Alabama to share their experiences with the accessibility, timeliness and delivery of services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to the President's Task Force.

To share your experiences or suggestions on how to improve the VA and other federal agencies, please contact the Task Force through one of the following options:

Via Postal Service:

Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror
Heroes
c/o Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy and
Planning
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Via Email:

TFHeroes@va.gov

Via Fax:

(202) 273-9599

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